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Message Text

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41
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01

EA-11 EUR-25 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /143 W
---------- 082291
O 161430Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0896

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5067

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US
SUBJECT: FORMER VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHEREY'S CONVERSATION
WITH MRS. GANDHI

HINDUSTAN TIMES (KRISHAN BHATIA) REPORT DATELINED WASHINGTON, APRIL 15, READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: IN 1966 WHEN THE VIETNAM WAR WAS AT ITS FIERCEST AND INDIA WAS VIGOROUSLY PROTESTING IN PUBLIC AGAINST THE US INVOLVEMENT IN IT, PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI AND HER CABINET COLLEAGUES PRIVATELY TOLD MR. HUBERT HUMPHREY, THE THEN US VICE-PRESIDENT, THAT "IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT WE (AMERICAN TROOPS) WERE THERE."

THIS STARTLING CLAIM IS MADE BY MR. HUMPHREY IN AN INTERVIEW REPORTED IN THIS MORNING'S NEW YORK TIMES.

MR. HUMPHREY, WHO WAS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOMINEE IN THE 1968 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, SAID HE OBTAINED THIS PRIVATE VIEW OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT DURING A VISIT TO NEW DELHI IN 1966. ACCORDING TO THE INTERVIEW REPORT, MRS. GANDHI AND HER GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BECAUSE "WITHOUT AMERICANS BEING THERE CHINA WOULD
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BE A MENACE THAT NO ONE COULD CONTROL." ALL THAT INDIAN

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LEADERS COULD SEE WAS CHINA, ACCORDING TO MR. HUMPHREY.

THIS CHARGE OF A TWO-FACED POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON INDIA'S PART BEARS A SIMILARITY TO PRIVATE SUGGESTIONS AND
INNUENDOES ONE HEARS IN OFFICIAL WASHINGTON THESE DAYS IN RESPECT
OF THE US DECISION TO SET UP A BASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. INDIA,
IT IS SOMETIMES HINTED, PROTESTS AGAINST THE US PRESENCE AT
DIEGO GARCIA FOR FORM'S SAKE AND TO PLEASE ITS PARLIAMENT AND
THAT IN REALITY, THE INDIANS ARE GLAD THAT THE US IS THERE TO
CHECK THE GROWING SOVIET POWER IN THE REGION. END QUOTE.
MOYNIHAN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Subject: FORMER VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHEREY'S CONVERSATION WITH MRS. GANDHI
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, VS, (HUMPHREY, HUBERT H), (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
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